

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

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S/PRS - MR. FU SETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 102484

R 042308Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FTR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
SEPTEMBER 4, 1975:

ANNOUNCEMENT:

YOU ALL KNOW THAT THE SECRETARY IS GOING UP TO MEET IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:00 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

ON MONDAY, THIS COMING MONDAY AT 10:30 THE SECRETARY WILL
MEET WITH THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

Q. BOB, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN GENEVA THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT
BE PRESENT AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE INTERIM AGREE-
MENT, ALTHOUGH AT FIRST IT HAD BEEN SAID THAT MR. ATHERTON
WOULD ATTEND. CAN YOU TELL US HOW THE DECISION WAS MADE,
AND WHETHER IT WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RUSSIAN REFUSAL

TO BE THERE?

A. LET ME JUST MAKE A GENERAL COMMENT ON IT, IF I MAY.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS SIGNING, AS YOU KNOW, IS A
SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO
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PARTIES, I.E., ISRAEL AND EGYPT. THERE IS NO SET
PATTERN FOR THIS.

I BELIEVE, IN THE CASE OF THE SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT, WE WERE THERE AND THE SOVIETS WERE THERE FOR
THE SIGNING. AT THE KILOMETER 101 SIGNING ON THE FIRST
INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WE WERE
THERE. THERE IS NO SET PATTERN.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON DROPPED OFF FROM THE SECRETARY'S PLANE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON AND WENT TO GENEVA CARRYING WITH HIM JUST ABOUT ALL THE DOCUMENTS THAT HAVE TO BE SIGNED THERE TODAY. THAT WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS THAT HE WENT THERE. INASMUCH AS WE WERE INSTRUMENTAL, IF YOU WISH, IN HELPING NEGOTIATE THIS AGREEMENT, ATHERTON WAS THERE AVAILABLE IN CASE ANY PARTICULAR LAST MINUTE QUESTIONS AROSE. I DO NOT MAKE REALLY A BIG THING, FRANKLY, OF WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE ATTENDED OR NOT. INCIDENTALLY, AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT IS ALL OVER. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SIGNED AT NOON, WASHINGTON TIME.

Q. ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING MADE A REFERENCE THIS MORNING, I UNDERSTAND, TO A PROTEST FROM THE SOVIET UNION RECEIVED BY THE UNITED STATES. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THAT WAS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PROTEST. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY PROTEST RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION, OR THE NATURE OF SUCH AN ALLEGED PROTEST.

Q. WAS THERE A MESSAGE, LET'S SAY, OF UNHAPPINESS?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY MESSAGE OF UNHAPPINESS ON THIS. INCIDENTALLY, IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SECRETARY WILL BE SEEING THE SOVIET CHARGE TONIGHT. IT WAS SET UP TODAY TO BE SEEING HIM TONIGHT AT 6 O'CLOCK -- MINISTER VORONTSOV. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN IS OUT OF TOWN.

P. WAS THERE ANY MESSAGE AT ALL RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SIGNING?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW. THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE SEEN ON

THE TICKERS IS THAT THEY NOTIFIED THE U.N. THAT THEY WERE NOT PLANNING TO SEND ANYBODY. THAT IS THE ONLY THING I KNOW.

Q. HE IS SEEING MR. VORONTSOV CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. I ASSUME THAT, OBVIOUSLY, I DID NOT EVEN ASK THE SECRETARY, BUT I ASSUME THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD RAISE WITH HIM, TO DISCUSS THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

Q. TO FOLLOW UP MY QUESTION, BOB, WHEN MR. ATHERTON

DROPPED OUT OF THE PLANE TO GO TO GENEVA --

A. NO, HE DID NOT DROP OUT OF THE PLANE. WE LANDED FIRST.

Q.--IT WAS ASSUMED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND THE SIGNING, OR WHEN WAS THE DECISION MADE THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND IT? IN OTHER WORDS, WAS THAT MADE AFTER IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT BE ATTENDING?

A. I DO NOT HONESTLY KNOW. I DO NOT KNOW. AS I SAID EARLIER, WE DO NOT MAKE, FRANKLY, A VERY BIG THING OUT OF THIS THING, BECAUSE IT IS BASICALLY AN AGREEMENT THAT IS BEING SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. WHETHER WE WERE THERE, PHYSICALLY PRESENT OR NOT, HAS NO BEARING ON THE ACT OF SIGNING, IF YOU WILL, ON THE TWO PARTIES, BECAUSE THAT MEANS THEY NOW CAN GO INTO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO WORK OUT THE PROTOCOL AND GET THAT DONE. YES, SIR.

Q. THE AID PACKAGE IN THE SETTLEMENT ON THE ISRAELI SIDE WAS SAID TO BE OVER DOLS 2 BILLION, 75 PERCENT OF WHICH WAS IN MILITARY AID. IS THAT CORRECT, AND IS THERE ANY BREAKDOWN ON WHAT THAT AID INCLUDES, WHAT ITEMS, AND SO FORTH?

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A. ON THIS SUBJECT, I SAW A NUMBER OF TICKERS OBVIOUSLY AFTER THE LEADERSHIP MEETING THIS MORNING. I CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY OR DISCUSS OR COMMENT ON THE VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SUBMIT THE AID PACKAGE TO THE HILL. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS -- FRANKLY, A LOT OF THEM ARE STILL BEING PUT TOGETHER. THERE IS NO POINT IN MY TRYING TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANY OF THESE THINGS. WHETHER THE FIGURES ARE EXACTLY ACCURATE OR WHETHER THEY ARE JUST BALL-PARK FIGURES, I HONESTLY DO

NOT KNOW. BUT, IN DUE COURSE, WHEN THE PACKAGE IS COMPLETED, IT WILL BE SENT UP. THERE WILL BE DEFINITE FIGURES AVAILABLE THEN. YES, SIR.

Q. WELL, WOULD YOU CLARIFY FOR ME, THE FIGURES THAT ARE BEING BANDIED ABOUT? ARE THOSE THE FIGURES FOR THE PACKAGE ONLY, OR WOULD THEY INCLUDE PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS OF AID?

A. I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW. LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU SOMETHING ON THAT ONE ASPECT, JUST AS A GENERAL

PROPOSITION, WITH ITS PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS OR NOT, IF I CAN GET YOU ANY. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON WHAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE ASKED FOR, AT LEAST -- MAYBE NOT WHAT WE WILL BE WILLING TO GIVE THEM, BUT WHAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN, HOW MUCH?

A. THE ADMINISTRATION CERTAINLY KNOWS WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKING FOR. BEFORE WE WENT ON THE TRIP, THERE WERE SOME TECHNICAL TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT HERE, TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHAT THE ISRAELI NEEDS WERE. CERTAINLY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS A VERY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT THE ISRAELI DESIRES ARE, YES.

LET ME MENTION ONE THING HERE, WITH REGARD TO SYRIA, IF I MAY. I HAVE ONLY HAD ONE QUESTION ABOUT IT, BUT EVIDENTLY -- I THINK IT WAS IN AN EDITION OF NEWSWEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EDITION -- THERE WAS AN ITEM IN THERE THAT SAID THAT DR. KISSINGER ALLEGEDLY TOLD THE

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JERUSALEM NEGOTIATING TEAM THAT THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAD DECLARED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN FOR TALKS ON A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT IF ISRAEL AGREED TO RETURN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TO SYRIA. I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT THIS HAS NO FOUNDATION IN FACT. IT JUST IS NONSENSE. THERE IS NOTHING TO IT AT ALL. I JUST WANTED TO PUT THAT IN THE RECORD, IF I MAY.

Q. BOB, REPRESENTATIVE EARLY SAYS THAT FIRST NATIONAL CITY AND CHASE MANHATTAN BANKS HAVE JUST ENTERED INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS?

A. I CANNOT. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

Q. HE SAYS -- WELL, HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER IT WAS PART OF THE SINAI ACCORD, BUT IT COINCIDES WITH THE ACCORD. YOU HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE -- IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO THAT, IT HAS NO RELATIONSHIP AND IT IS NOT PART OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT THAT HAS JUST BEEN NEGOTIATED. THAT IS THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU. KISSINGER

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